

**JOINT MEETING OF  
THE GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING SUMMARY  
AND  
THE ADVISORY TASK FORCE  
12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING SUMMARY**

**Wednesday, December 4, 2002**

**Prepared by:**

**The Department of Natural Resources**

**Office of Conservation**

**Ground Water Management Staff**

## **Call to Order**

### **Commission members in attendance:**

Durwood Franklin for Hall Bohlinger, Department of Environmental Quality

Jim Welsh, Department of Natural Resources

William “Bill” Cefalu, Police Jury Association

Richard Durrett, Sparta Ground Water Conservation District

Karen Gautreaux, Governor’s Designee

Karen Irion for Dean Lowe, Department of Health and Hospitals

John Roussel, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Brad Spicer, Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Michael Taylor, Department of Economic Development

Linda Zaunbrecher, Farm Bureau Member

### **Advisory Task Force members in attendance**

Jess Barr, Cotton Producers Association

Herschel L. Bourque, Louisiana Ground Water Association

Bill Branch, LSU AgCenter

Representative N. J. Damico, House Committee on Environment

Dr. Rene` de Hon, University of Louisiana – Monroe, Geology Department

Charles R. Demas, U.S.G.S. - Water Resources Division

Henry T. Graham, Jr., Louisiana Chemical Association

Bradford Hanson, Louisiana Geological Survey

Falcolm E. Hull, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New Orleans

Robert Jackson, New Orleans Sewer and Water Board

Randy Lanctot, Louisiana Wildlife Federation

Paul “Jackie” Loewer, Louisiana Rice Growers

Frank Lyon, Louisiana Independent Oil & Gas Association

Olevia McDonald, Sparta Ground Water Conservation District

Dr. Fulbert Namwamba, Southern University

Jeffrey A. Nunn, L.S.U. Department of Geology

Bradley E. Spicer, Soil and Water Conservation

Charles W. Stahr, Louisiana Pulp and Paper Association

Linda M. Walker, League of Women Voters

Michael W. Wascom, Citizens for a Clean Environment

### **Ground Water Management Staff Report**

A few more Water Well Information Sheets were received since the last meeting.

The audio from the Critical Ground Water Designation Hearing held in Ruston is now available on the Ground Water Management Commission’s website. A few sets of the audio are available from the staff on CD.

Meetings attended by the staff include a conference titled “Water as a Resource: Legal, Policy and Economic Issues,” which was hosted by the

American Society for Environmental Sciences and a meeting of the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission.

The staff spent most of their time in the past two weeks following up on the hearing in Ruston and preparing the implementation plan for the Comprehensive Water Management System, which must be submitted to the legislative oversight committees by the end of this month.

The brochures were delivered to the Office of Conservation in November. Several hundred copies of each were available for those in attendance.

### **C. H. Fenstermaker & Associates**

The consultants reported that Chapter 9, Evaluation of Strategies, will be posted on the website by Friday, December 6, 2002. The final Part II will be delivered to the staff on the same day. Chapters 6 – 12 are the framework for the final plan. Revisions presented included proposed definitions of a critical ground water area, nineteen efficiency measures and six efficiency incentives. The Preference Feasibility Questionnaire was mailed to 400 constituents. Two hundred twenty-seven responded or 52%. The dominant group responding was the agriculture group. The industrial group gave the highest score to tax incentives. Recommendations from the PFA were also reported.

The consultants reviewed each chapter of Part II at length. Mr. Brent Sonnier discussed the proposed model legislation and rules. Oil and gas conservation, statutes and Act 446 similarities and differences were identified. Adams vs. Grigsby, the Rule of Capture, Act 446 and the Mineral Code were also discussed. Also addressed was the proposed three tiered administrative permit process.

### **Commission Questions and Comments**

The Commissioners asked many questions of the consultants. Most questions asked were in reference to the function of the future commission, the hearing and permitting process, working with other states to ensure there are no adverse affects upon aquifers in our state, and availability of data and data standards. Another concern is which aquifer is most impacted due to use by other states.

## **Advisory Task Force Questions and Comments**

The Task Force questions involved Act 446 and correlative rights, hearing notices, and mechanisms other than stated in Part II did the consultants review. Other questions asked included the closure of wells, new users and the accumulation of wells. One comment was the need to address water as a commodity and is there any consideration of taxing such as a severance tax.

## **Old Business**

Consideration of Part II by C. H. Fenstermaker and Associates on December 13, 2002.

## **New Business**

The plan for implementation is due to the Legislative Oversight Committee by December 31, 2002. An outline of what needs to be included in the report was read into the record. The work submitted by C. H. Fenstermaker and Associates is the background for the final report from the Commission, Advisory Task Force and the Office of Conservation. The framework will be e-mailed to the Ground Water Management mailing list for comment.

## **Public Question and Comment**

No public questions or comments.

## **Schedule of Upcoming Meetings**

Friday, December 13, 2002 at 9:30 a.m. – Advisory Task Force meeting.

Friday, December 13, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. – Ground Water Management Commission meeting.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.